

Nimbari language

The **Nimbari language** (also **Niam-Niam**), which is no longer spoken, was a member of the Leko–Nimbari group of Savanna languages. It was spoken in northern Cameroon. *Ethnologue* (22nd ed.) lists Badjire, Gorimbari, and Padjara-Djabi villages as Nimbari locations in Bénoué and Mayo-Louti divisions.

Nimbari was labeled "G12" in Joseph Greenberg's Adamawa language-family proposal.

History and classification

Kastenholz and Kleinewillinghöfer (2012) note that Nimbari cannot be classified with certainty due to limited data.^[4] It is a Fali name meaning 'people of Mbari'. People who identify as Nimbari currently speak Kangou (or Kaangu, Kaang), a variety of Southern Fali, and identify the ethnic name *Nimbari* with their village, Gorimbari.^[5] Kastenholz and Kleinewillinghöfer (2012) report from a 2008 field trip that the name *Mbaari* refers to an inselberg (Fali language: ɡóɾi) central to the village of Gorimbari (Gorimbaara [ɡóːrímbáːrà]). Nimbari is derived from the Fali term *níí mbááɾì* 'people/person (*niru*) of Mbaari'.

Strümpell (1922/23) reported *Nimbari* to be the autonym of *Niam-Niam* language speakers.^[6] Originally, Strümpell (1910) called the language *Niam-Niam*, and had documented some limited data of questionable quality from elderly rememberers; the language was already no longer in everyday use at the time of data collection.^[7] Kastenholz and Kleinewillinghöfer (2012) note that some items in Strümpell's word list share similarities with Duru languages (Dii, Duupa, Dugun), and also with Samba Leko and Kolbila to a lesser extent. However, many words have no clear parallels with other Adamawa languages.

References

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Nimbari	
Niam-Niam	
Region	northern Cameroon
Ethnicity	130 (2002) ^{[1][2]}
Extinct	(date missing) ^[2]
Language family	Niger–Congo - Atlantic–Congo - Leko–Nimbari Nimbari
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	nmr
Glottolog	nimb1256 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/launguoid/id/nimb1256) ^[3]

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